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05-36

February 24, 2005

For Immediate Release:

"A DIFFERENT KIND OF FINANCIAL AID NIGHT" BREWING AT EIU

CHARLESTON – Eastern Illinois University invites all parents of senior class college-bound high school students to "A Different Kind of Financial Aid Night," scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28.

The evening's activities will guide parents through the process of completing the FAFSA form -- the gateway form that determines a student's eligibility for all types of federal student financial aid, including Pell grants, subsidized student loans and unsubsidized student loans. In addition, almost all schools use the data from a FAFSA to qualify a student for public and private scholarships.

Representatives of Eastern's Office of Financial Aid will begin the evening with a general session, then walk participants through the line-by-line completion of the FAFSA. In addition, they'll demonstrate internet completion which allows for a faster processing time.

There will be opportunities for financial aid staff to assist participants and answer questions, both privately and in a group setting.

The event, free of charge, is open to all parents of senior students in the area, and is not limited to parents of prospective EIU students. Reservations are required, however, and may be made by calling 581-3714 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, or by e-mailing csdle@eiu.edu. Interested persons should include their name, address and phone number and/or e-mail address for confirmation and, if necessary, notification of any weather-related cancellation.

The event will take place in the Arcola/Tuscola Room, located on the third floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.